

CITY OF MILPITAS
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMISSION
MILPITAS CITY HALL COMMITTEE MEETING ROOM
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
November 5, 2003

**I.
Call to Order
and Roll Call**

Chair Garcia called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Commissioners Abelardo, Cook, Iloreto, Mohsin, Pham, and Robinson. Alternates present were Commissioners Ranker, Lee, and Luna. Absent: Commissioners King, Mandal, and Ortiz, Jr.

**II.
Seating of
Alternates**

Alternates seated were Ranker and Luna.

**III.
Pledge of
Allegiance**

Chair Garcia led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IV.
Approval of
Agenda**

MOTION to approve the Agenda as submitted.

M/S: Abelardo, Mohsin

Ayes: 9

**V.
Approval of
Minutes**

MOTION to approve the Minutes of October 1, 2003.

M/S: Mohsin, Abelardo

Ayes: 8

Abstain: 1 (Iloreto)

**VI.
Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**VII.
Citizens' Forum**

Chair Garcia invited members of the audience to address the Commission on any item not on the agenda.

Rob Means, 1421 Yellowstone (representative for the Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association) – Mr. Means stated that the association was concerned with the plans for BART. There will not be a BART station in their area. He stated that they are looking to provide some type of electric shuttle service. Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) is the technology they are looking at right now that seems to make sense. This system could link all of Milpitas reasonably economically. The association is presently doing presentations out to the public explaining what PRT is all about. Mr. Means requested to give a presentation to the CAC at a future meeting. Chair Garcia stated that this would be agendaized at either the December or January CAC meeting.

VIII. Liaison Reports

A. City Council

Councilmember Polanski introduced herself to the Commission and gave a brief summary of the most recent City Council items. The Council approved some new Fire Department fees. The Council also approved the CDBG priorities that the CAC recommended. The City sold the RDA bonds. The City received a double A credit rating to market the bonds. The City is doing \$30,000,000 worth of projects this year. The Council and the Milpitas Unified School District held a joint meeting to reaffirm their partnership. Councilmember Polanski announced the Veterans Day Celebration on November 11, 2003 at 9:00 am. The 50th Anniversary committee met to discuss the program for January 26, 2004 from 7:00 – 8:00 pm.

IX. Old Business

a. Discussion of October 2003 Town Hall Meeting Outcome.

Staff provided the Commission with some data regarding comparison from last year versus this year with respect to efforts related to preparing for the meeting, preparing flyers and handouts for the meeting, hours for staff who monitored booths as well as those that gave presentations, number of attendees (60 last year, 45 this year), and number of complaints (16 last year, 10 this year). A significant amount of money was spent this year compared to last year on advertising. Staff recommended the Commission weigh the benefits and costs to decide whether or not to continue having these meetings.

Vice-Chair Iloreta asked what was the nature of the meeting and whether some of the issues were a repeat from last year. Staff stated that the basic concerns that were asked about last time were repeats. The concerns were about the same situations.

Commissioner Ranker asked about the cost for advertising. Staff stated this year advertising was done in several newspapers to reach out to the non-English speaking community.

Chair Garcia suggested this might be the wrong forum and wrong approach on how to do this and are there other ways. He suggested as part of the work plan for next year that perhaps using a different approach other than the Town Hall meeting to increase outreach and attendance and to televise it be discussed. Commissioner Ranker suggested having it televised using a call in approach with a small panel of members to answer questions from the community that calls in. Chair Garcia suggested having this item tabled to the 2004 work plan discussion.

X. New Business

a. Neighborhood Beautification Appreciation – 4th Annual Awards Program.

Staff stated that at the August 6, 2003 CAC meeting, the Commission formed a subcommittee to tour the nominated sites and make recommendations to the Commission. This year there were 16 nominations received by the August 31, 2003 deadline. The sites were toured on October 2, 2003 by the subcommittee. The award winners will receive an award gift and declaration, and all nominees will receive a certificate of appreciation. The results will be posted on the City website, cable TV, and the Milpitas Post. Awards will be distributed at the City Council meeting December 2, 2003, with a break for refreshments and a celebration. Staff recommends the Commission review and approve the subcommittee and staff's NBO 2003 award recommendations.

MOTION to approve the subcommittee and staff's NBO 2003 award recommendations.

M/S: Ranker, Cook

Ayes: 9

b. Holiday Social and Tree Decorating Celebration.

Staff stated that up until 2001, the CAC has held an event for the public and Commission to join together in decorating a tree in the City Hall lobby for the holiday season. This included a potluck provided by the CAC and is usually held Thanksgiving weekend. Last year, since there was no indoor tree planned for the new City Hall lobby, the event involved decorating an outdoor tree. The Public Works Department and Recreation Department started a new tradition of creating a wonderland out in the plaza area. Last year, 10 trees were provided. Lights were hung. Businesses and organizations could sponsor a tree by paying a \$250 fee and decorating it as they pleased.

Last year attendance was slim by both the CAC and the public. Due to the windstorms of last year, the decorations were damaged. New decorations would need to be purchased if the Commission decided to continue this event. The tree would have to be decorated on November 30, 2003 between the hours of 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. Decorating would have to be done by the CAC and not staff. Staff recommends that the CAC appoint one of its members to have the decorations available at the event and lead in the decorating and flyer distribution efforts, if they decide to continue this event this year.

The Vice-Chair asked what businesses or organizations could sponsor a tree. Staff stated any business or service organization could participate in the event.

Staff stated that if the Commission decided to have the event, they must be fully committed to doing this event, since it is during the Thanksgiving weekend when staff will not be available. Commissioner Pham volunteered to participate and take the lead in this event. There was a consensus to not invite the public, so there will be no public advertising or potluck. Staff will purchase new decorations and have them available for the lead CAC member prior to the event. Commissioners participating in the event are: Robinson, Cook, Pham, and Abelardo.

MOTION to participate in this year's tree decorating.

M/S: Robinson, Mohsin

Ayes: 9

c. Review of Ethics Program RFP and viewing of video titled, "Ethics and the Elected Official: Avoiding the Slippery Slope" from the League of California Cities Institute for Self Government.

Staff stated due to technical difficulties, the video titled, "Ethics and the Elected Official: Avoiding the Slippery Slope" will be held over to the December CAC meeting. At the last CAC meeting, the Commission approved a staff proposal for the next steps in carrying out the Council's September 2, 2003 action. That action would cover campaign candidates, City Council Members, Commissioners, and City employees. The second part of the action is to employ the services of a qualified professional to lead ethical conduct workshops and to prepare the ethics code. Staff did a walkthrough of the proposed RFP schedule for the Commission. Consultants will be given about 2 weeks to respond and staff is looking to select consultants the week of December 10th. Interviews would be held December 10th and would be reviewed by a panel of in-house staff and a CAC member. Staff suggested the CAC Chair. The contract would be brought to the Council for approval January 20, 2004. The goal is to have the training task done by the end of June 2004 in advance of the November election.

Vice-Chair Iloreta asked how many consultants staff has in mind. Staff stated this is a very specialized line of work and they have collected names of less than ten consultants.

MOTION to approve the RFP, with minor changes provided by Ranker and Iloreta.

M/S: Ranker, Robinson

Ayes: 9

d. Mayor's Term Length.

Chair Garcia stated that the purpose of the subcommittee was to look at changing the term length of the Mayor from 2 years to 4 years. The subcommittee looked at other communities, looked at information from a public policy source, and interviewed 3 former Mayors. All 3 former Mayors agreed with the 4 year term. Changing the term length would allow a more strategic view and more of a long-term plan. Because of the regional boards that the Mayor serves on, it is better to be a 4-year term. That will allow the mayor to have a greater say in several regional forums. It would take less campaign funding. Having to campaign every 2 years is a distraction. The subcommittee recommends placing this on the ballot to change the Mayor's term length from 2 years to 4 years. They also recommend that there be a 2 term limit, a maximum of 8 years in the position of Mayor. This is commonly done in most cities.

Commissioner Lee added that it takes a couple of months to get acquainted with the position, which also takes away from the 2 years in office. He also stated that one of the former Mayors stated that it would be more appropriate to have the term length the same as the council members.

MOTION to accept the draft as submitted with the exception of the one line above the recommendation on Page 4 of the attachment, which will be deleted from the recommendation to the City Council.

M/S: Garcia, Robinson

Ayes: 9

Councilmember Polanski suggested staff get clarification from the City Clerk's office or City Attorney about the term limits, how the vote was, how things are, and what the process is. This could be a totally different process that they would need to go through for something that was already voted by the people. It could be much more complicated than they might want to move forward with. The Commission directed staff to get the clarification on the term limits and bring it back to the CAC.

e. Discuss 2003 Subcommittee/Task Force Assignments.

Neighborhood Preservation Subcommittee (Abelardo, Lee, Mohsin, and Robinson)
Commissioner Robinson thanked Gloria Anaya for her help on this item. Commissioner Lee stated that the subcommittee met on 3 occasions. One of the meetings was to discuss the NBO ordinance. He also stated that the subcommittee would focus its efforts on one or two key issues, which the CAC can take action on.

50th Year Anniversary (Mohsin, Alternate-Mandal)
Commissioner Mohsin stated that the Milpitas Post is working very hard to gather information.

Tree Ordinance/Heritage Tree Program (Iloreta)
Staff stated that there is a delay in this item. An update would be brought back to the Commission at their December meeting.

**XI.
Adjournment**

Chair Garcia adjourned the meeting at 9:28 p.m. to the December 3, 2003 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
